GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3118
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List of BPL Families
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in the country, State/UTwise including Maharashtra;

(b) the criteria for identifying BPL families;

(c) whether the Government is aware that such families, which are not eligible, are also largely included in the list of BPL families;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise; and

(e) the measures taken/being taken to delist the non-entitled families from the list of BPL families as well as to include those genuinely entitled to be included therein?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Rural Development provided financial and technical support to the States/UTs for conducting BPL Census of 1992, 1997 and 2002 to identify poor households in the rural areas who could be targeted under its development programmes. The BPL Census of 2002 was conducted with the methodology of score based ranking of rural households for which 13 socio-economic indicators/parameters/criteria were used on the recommendation of an Expert Group constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development. These 13 indicators were (i) size of land holding, (ii) type of houses, (iii) clothing (iv) food security (v) sanitation (vi) ownership of consumer durables (vii) literacy status (viii) Status of household labour force (ix) means of livelihood (x) Status of children (xi) indebtedness (xii) migration and (xiii) preference of assistance. For each of these thirteen indicators, the households were awarded scores in a five-point scale from 0-4. The scores were inversely related to the poverty and deprivation of the household. A low score indicate a higher level of poverty and deprivation and vice-versa. For each household, the scores from these 13 indicators were summed up to get aggregate score of the household. The aggregate score of a household could range from a minimum of zero to a maximum of 52. The households were arranged in ascending order to get the BPL list.

Grievances/representations were received, including through States/UTs, that some ineligible families have been included in the BPL List 2002. Following the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in W.P. No.196 of 2001, the Ministry of Rural Development issued instruction to all the States/UTs to make a provision allowing new names to be added and ineligible names to be deleted from the BPL list during the period of validity of the BPL list. A statement showing rural BPL families identified by the States/UTs, including Maharashtra, as per the BPL Census 2002 is at Annexure.

(e) : The Ministry of Rural Development got conducted through the States/UTs the Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC 2011) across the country to collect information on socio and economic status of rural households to allow ranking of households based on their socio economic status. Ranking of Households is made through a three-step process involving 13(thirteen) Automatic Exclusion parameters for identifying not-poor households, 5 (five) Automatic Inclusion parameters for identifying poorest of the poor households and 7 (seven) Deprivation Criteria for identifying poor households.

The SECC 2011 data is being used to select beneficiaries for several rural development programmes of this Ministry using the criteria of Automatically Included households and households reporting on 1-7 deprivation in the SECC-2011 in each Panchayat as per the selection criteria and objectives of the programmes/schemes.

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